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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

20 October 1950

DAILY KOREAN SUMMARY

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Date: 16/4/78 By: 023I. Military SituationHighlights

Early official confirmation of the fall of Pyongyang is expected. Elements of three UN divisions have crossed the Taedong River into the main city, and all roads leading out of the city to the north have been choked for twenty-four hours with retreating enemy traffic. US airborne troops have been dropped in the vicinity of Sunchon and Sukchon in a position to cut enemy escape routes twenty-five miles north of Pyongyang.

Ground

Stiff to moderate enemy resistance on the southern and eastern outskirts of Pyongyang has been overcome, and elements of the US 1st Cavalry Division and the ROK 1st and 7th Divisions are mopping up token resistance within the city after crossing the Taedong River. Enemy forces withdrawing north from Pyongyang have been denied an unopposed retreat by the US 187th Airborne Regiment which has been dropped in the vicinity of Sunchon and Sukchon north of Pyongyang. The US 24th Division captured over 5,500 enemy prisoners in the area between Haeju and Kyomipo. On the east coast, elements of the ROK Capital Division fanned out from Hamhung. One regiment advanced 25 miles along the coast to Hongwon, while other elements advanced north to within five miles of Sinhung and northwest to Tukhung. US X Corps headquarters has moved to Wonsan and will assume control of the ROK I Corps, including the ROK Capital and 3rd Divisions. Mopping-up operations continued in southern Korea against remnant enemy forces; the ROK 17th Regiment was reported in contact with a concentration of 2,000 enemy troops near the east coast town of Kangnung, below the 38th Parallel. An ROK III Corps has been activated to assume responsibility for eliminating guerrillas in southern Korea.

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Navy

Mine-sweeping of the approaches to Wonsan continued while other UN vessels blocked possible water escape routes on both coasts. Naval aircraft attacked communication and transport facilities in enemy territory.

Air

Bad weather hampered air operations, but both ground support and interdiction missions were carried out by UN land-based aircraft. Poor visibility prevented accurate reconnaissance of Antung airfield across the Yalu River, but pilots reported no evidence substantiating an aircraft concentration previously reported on the field.

II. General Situation

No significant developments have been reported during the past 24 hours.

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